



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

No. 7

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 18, 2008, at 10 a.m.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 17, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HILDA L. SOLIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
O God, the source of all justice, truth and love. Members of the House of Representatives stand before You as government of the people, seeking Your grace and guidance in their service.

We know we must always be deeply concerned with the human needs that surround us. We cannot be indifferent to suffering, to injustice, error, or untruth. For this reason, again today we are committed to face the risks and problems that confront the people of this Nation.

Help us, Lord, to take all their human concerns to heart; to pray over them, seeking Your guidance; to address them honestly with others so they will be drawn into the awareness of their importance as well.

Enable us to investigate together the forces of destruction and creativity at

work within each human concern so we may be led to decisive action that will free people and at the same time bind them together in just law and good policy.

May this work be a blessing upon the Nation. In the end, to You, O Lord, be all glory and honor.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute per side.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WENSITS

(Mr. DONNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I would like to rise to honor a reporter's reporter, Mr. Jim Wensits, from the South Bend Tribune, who has recently retired. Jim is a proud graduate of Purdue University from 1966. Three days later, he started with the Tribune; and 40 years later he is retiring, after 20,000 articles and editorials. His hallmarks were integrity, accuracy, and fairness. His life's work made the South Bend Tribune a better paper and made our community a better place.

So on behalf of everyone back home, Jim, we want to say thank you. We wish Jim a great retirement with his family and with his beloved country music. Good luck, Godspeed, and thank you from everyone back home.

ECONOMIC FORECAST CLOUDY?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, economic forecasters are similar to the weather forecasters: they are the only people who can consistently be wrong about their predictions and keep their jobs, and we listen to them anyway.

The doom-and-gloom economic naysayers have predicted for years that the economy is in trouble, but the last years of economic growth have proved them wrong. Now this year, they say we are headed for a fearful recession. Well, we shall see.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H297